

Story #390 (Tape #3, 1972)

Narrator: Mehmet Bulut

Location: Çarikköy, Uşak merkez kaza,  
Province of Uşak

Date: Apparently late Dec. 1971,  
though it is on reel la-  
beled 1972. The tales were  
all collected on the same  
field trip.

How Harun Reshid Located the Lost Behlül by  
Means of a Golden Coach

Harun Reshid had a golden coach built in order to find his lost brother Behlül. The coach was placed at the market place, and the people were invited to guess its value. Since only Behlül knew the true price of the coach, Harun was hoping to find out the hiding place of his brother through this trick.

Behlül was hiding in the tent of a Yörük. One day when the Yörük returned from the market, Behlül asked, "What is new in town?"

The Yörük answered, "They have a golden coach built which is on display at the market place. They promise to reward the one who can declare its exact value."

Behlül said, "When you go to the market next time, tell the

<sup>1</sup>As it stands, this tale makes no sense. The 74-year-old raconteur was growing senile. There are enough specifics here, however, to suggest that (1) with a better translation, or (2) with the subsequent discovery of motifs forgotten by M.D., it might be usable. There is obviously more point to Behlül's evaluation of the coach than we have here; hiding out among Yörüks is a common motif.

ry #390

ges this: 'When it rains in the month of May, the coach is priceless. If it doesn't rain in May, it won't be worth anything; it will be so useless that they will have to pull it themselves.'

When the Yörük went to the market next time, he volunteered to evaluate the coach. He repeated what Behlül had told him: "When it rains in the month of May, the coach will be priceless. If it doesn't rain in May, it won't be worth anything." As soon as the Yörük finished saying these words, Harun Reshid's men arrested him, thinking that he was Behlül himself. Later they found the hiding place of Behlül through the Yörük, who was willing to tell them where Behlül was hiding in order to regain his freedom.